

REMARKS

Claims 11-18 remain in this application. Claims 1-10 have been previously canceled.

Claims 11-18 were rejected as indefinite under section 112, second paragraph.

The claims have been amended to remedy the stated basis of rejection. Withdrawal of the rejection is solicited.

New claim 19 is based on claim 11 and introduces no new matter.

Claims 11-14 and 18 were rejected as obvious over Rekret 5,718,276 in view of Kendall 4,589,240.

Claims 15-16 were rejected in further view of Martin 7,055,573.

Claim 17 was rejected in further view of Porta 5,075,927.

Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Rekret, column 1, lines 61-63, clearly discloses that: "The connection between the receptacle and the connector is such that the connector can only be slid in position along the length of the receptacle..." (emphasis added).

The pending independent claims, e.g., claim 11, (point b) of the above application recites: "... to couple and hinge the panels (1) together by simply insetting them manually and thrusting them in the direction of the panel height,...",

(emphasis added) i.e., in a direction perpendicular to the sliding direction in Rekret.

The coupling require by claims 11 and 19 is neither disclosed nor suggested in Rekret.

See specification spanning pages 3-4:

A half-ring 9 of anti-friction material seated (see Figure 4) in the portions 23, 24, 28 and 29 of the recess 8. As shown in Figure 4, the half-rings are of limited longitudinal extension and involve only localized points. Said ends 6 and 7 of each individual panel 1 can be coupled and hinged to the matching ends of other identical panels 1' by being simply inserted manually and thrust in the direction of the height axis without the aid of hinges or other connection means (see top of Figure 5), or by inserting the said matching ends of the individual panels into each other by simply sliding them mutually in the direction of the panel length.

Rather, Rekret teaches away from the invention, as according to what stated at column 1, lines 53-56, Rekret teaches that the recited coupling is excluded, thus making *de facto* impossible to realize a connection according to claim 11 or claim 19 of the above application.

Therefore, the invention according to claim 11 and claim 19 in the above application cannot be obtained by combining the Rekret patent with any the other documents cited by the Examiner.

Reconsideration and allowance of all the claims are therefore solicited.

This amendment is believed to be fully responsive and to put the case in condition for allowance. Entry of the amendment, and an early and favorable action on the merits is earnestly requested. Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Should there be any matters that need to be resolved in the present application; the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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